



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Southern Regional Office (SRO)
400 W. Congress, Suite 433, Tucson, AZ 85701

DRAFT Minutes of the Shannon Road/El Camino del Cerro Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting – 18th Meeting

February 4, 2004, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Nanini Library, 7300 N. Shannon Road, Tucson, Arizona

W-10000.6.6.2

CAB Members Present: Gary Burchard, James Eigel, Terri Hutts, Fran LaSala, Bob Ornelas, Gary Pitman, Eleanor Towne

CAB Members Absent: Susan Bjerke, Chris North, Al Pesqueira

ADEQ Staff Present: Michael Romero, Project Manager; Melissa Hayes, Community Involvement Coordinator

Members of the Public Present: Glenna Rader, Robert and Suzanne Dalrymple, Greg Mohl, David Eaker, Bob Estes

The meeting began at 6:08 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Gary Pitman, CAB co-chair, welcomed members and conducted introductions. Robert and Suzanne Dalrymple said they recently moved into the area and heard about the CAB. They asked how the members became involved on the board. Gary Pitman explained that the CAB has to follow the agenda, but they could answer the question during the Call to the Public. Melissa Hayes briefly explained the CAB meeting process.

2. Approval of Minutes from 10/22/03

Terri Hutts motioned to approve the minutes; Ellie Towne seconded. All CAB members were in favor; none were opposed. Gary Pitman abstained from voting since he was not at the last meeting.

3. Nomination/Election of CAB Co-Chairs for Next Term

Terri Hutts nominated Fran LaSala, but he declined. Gary Pitman nominated Al Pesqueira for another term; Ellie Towne seconded the motion. Melissa Hayes said that she would let Al Pesqueira know he was nominated. Gary Burchard nominated Gary Pitman for another term; Ellie Towne seconded. Gary Pitman accepted the nomination. Melissa Hayes explained that the CAB could nominate and

vote at the same meeting, or could nominate now and vote at the next meeting. The CAB decided to wait to vote until the next meeting.

4. Site Investigation Update/Q&A – Michael Romero, ADEQ

Michael Romero distributed a site update summary. He said that a new monitor well (W-37) may be installed this fiscal year, and will be constructed similarly to the monitoring wells installed last year. It will be installed north of Rillito Creek and south of the South Shannon well, but the exact location will be determined from modeling and results of cooperative aquifer testing that Metro Water and ADEQ are doing.

Michael Romero said that new monitor wells could be drilled this fiscal year on the former Wrecksperts property (part of the former AMRI Oil facility), but are contingent on access. Soil samples were collected in May 2003, in a focused grid in the area where lead was detected in the vacant lot in the southeast corner of Western Trailer Park. The samples were analyzed to determine an area for a potential small-scale shallow removal of lead-contaminated soil. The analysis was sent to ADEQ's Risk Assessment Unit to determine if a soil removal is warranted. The vacant lot is currently not being used and there is no direct exposure risk, so a cleanup there would not be urgent. Also, ADEQ wants to wait to perform a soil removal action there until it is determined if a cleanup is needed at the former Wrecksperts property, so ADEQ can incorporate the actions into one effort.

Soil vapor flux monitoring on the southern edge of Western Trailer Park was also completed. The monitoring was done to determine if any health risks are posed by possible soil vapor contaminants coming out of the ground into the air. Preliminary results indicate that no risk is posed in that area, because of the very low amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) detected in the samples. No further testing is planned, and the final report is being reviewed by ADEQ's Risk Assessment Unit. ADEQ recently removed one flux box from a property, at the renter's request.

Michael Romero said that the soil flux box monitoring on the former E.C. Winter property was also concluded. Samples were taken to determine if there are any immediate health risks from soil vapor contaminants remaining beneath the clean soil replaced after the soil removal action done on the property in fall 2001. The results indicate that some of the samples were a little higher than at the former AMRI Oil Facility property, and continued monitoring is recommended. The final report is currently being reviewed by ADEQ's Risk Assessment Unit.

The lot where ADEQ performed the excavation in 2001 is unoccupied, so there is no direct exposure risk. That cleanup removed lead-contaminated soil (on the surface) and petroleum-contaminated soil (down to 20 feet), and was performed because people were living on the property and there was a health risk. The excavation took care of the immediate health risk, but some vapors remain. It is not known to what extent the vapors could be impacting groundwater, since enough is not known about the soil vapor at other nearby potential sources of contamination. Michael Romero said that ADEQ wants to assess the former Wrecksperts property before installing a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system at the E.C. Winter property, to tie any SVE systems into one effort. However, there could be reason to install an SVE system on the E.C. Winter property earlier if it is determined from the flux box monitoring results that there is an immediate health risk posed by the vapor contaminants.

He said that the study of soil vapors coming up out of the ground is new, with only guidelines and no enforceable standards to follow. When vapors permeate out of the ground, they could get trapped in a home, however, if a home is elevated off the ground (such as a trailer), there is less potential for exposure to vapor contamination in the air. The main source of contamination on the E.C. Winter property was the former oil impoundment, and the flux box monitoring was performed at that area, so it is unlikely that vapors are coming out of the ground beyond that area.

Michael Romero said that the plume maps have been revised. Water levels have been dropping within the WQARF Sites, likely because of increased pumping and drought. Water levels could not be measured in some of the monitoring wells because the levels were now below the pumps. He said that ADEQ will work with Pima County to possibly lower the pumps in the wells, but may have to use alternative ways of sampling if that doesn't work. Water quality samples were collected from the entire monitoring network at both sites in the fourth quarter 2003, except for those that could not be sampled because of the decreased water levels. There were detections of four VOCs in the Palm Vista Mobile Home Park well, at levels just above the detection limit, but below the drinking water standards. These contaminants were detected once before in 1997, but had not been detected since then; this could potentially become an early response action. Detections of PCE in the South Shannon well (pre-treatment) were 25 µg/L, which is higher than in the past. The cause could be tied to the water level drop, or that the well pump had just been turned back on after being shut down several weeks; ADEQ will work with Metro Water to determine the cause.

He said ADEQ and Metro Water are conducting aquifer testing on the South Shannon well and two other site monitor wells. Metro Water shut down the South Shannon well for several days before the test, which will help determine aquifer parameters in the area for groundwater modeling and water production purposes. Gary Pitman asked if there is a trigger to shut down the South Shannon well if concentrations exceed what the treatment system can remedy. Gary Burchard said that ADEQ's drinking water program dictates the sampling to be done to ensure water quality. As the concentration of VOCs has increased in the South Shannon well, there have been contaminants detected below the Maximum Contaminant Level after treatment, but none have been detected in the storage tank before the water enters the distribution system. The concentrations are increasing past what the system is designed for, so Metro Water has reduced the flow of water into the treatment system, thus the cost per gallon is increasing. Metro Water has an agreement with ADEQ for the operation and maintenance of the treatment system, and is discussing upgrading the system. Michael Romero reminded the CAB that Mike Block from Metro Water previously did a presentation on the feasibility study on upgrading the treatment system. He also said that the South Shannon well is currently preventing the contamination from spreading further north, so it is important to keep the well running.

5. CAB Discussion of Letters Regarding Access to Wrecksperts Property

Michael Romero said that ADEQ is still working to get access to the former Wrecksperts property. The property owner has been corresponding with ADEQ. ADEQ mailed a letter regarding access this week, and previously sent a workplan detailing the proposed investigations. The property owner asked ADEQ to decrease the amount of work to be done on the property, but not all his requests can be met because it would cause an inadequate investigation. The owner has rented the property, and it appears that someone may be living there, so the use is changing. A change of use could increase the

need to address the contamination since ADEQ's goal is to protect human health. The area where it appears that people are living now is where contamination was not excavated during the soil removal done by the ADEQ Preliminary Assessment Unit in the mid-1990s.

Gary Pitman said that if ADEQ is making progress with the property owner, the CAB shouldn't jeopardize that. Michael Romero said there is the possibility that the property owner could back out. He said that if there is a potential health risk on a property, with people being affected, there is a lot more clout for a regulatory agency to do something about it. If no one was living on the property, there would be no direct risk from any lead-contaminated soil that could be present. However, ADEQ is also concerned that there could be a source below the area that was previously excavated that was never thoroughly investigated, which could be affecting the groundwater. He said that ADEQ's investigation in the mid-1990s did clean up the majority of the property. CAB members decided to wait to write a letter, but asked that this be an agenda item at the next meeting.

6. Call to the Public

At the request of an audience member, CAB members explained their interest in the WQARF Sites. Melissa Hayes said that she is not a board member, but facilitates the discussion and prepares the minutes and agendas; Michael Romero said that he is the project manager for the site and does not sit on the board either.

Jim Eigel asked if the El Camino del Cerro and Shannon Road-Rillito Creek WQARF sites are connected, and if there is a point at which the South Shannon well will be taken out of production. Michael Romero said that there were two sites initially because of the existing monitoring network. The general trend of groundwater movement in the area has been influenced by production wells to the north. There are still wells pumping to the north, besides the South Shannon well, so it is up to ADEQ to work with Metro Water to try to remove the contamination. Also, the system is beneficial because it is removing contamination, and the well is containing the contamination. However, the system does need to be upgraded.

Gary Burchard said that Metro Water's feeling is the same, and that the proposed upgrade to the treatment system on the South Shannon well was designed by comparing it to the closest well with the highest concentrations. Michael Romero explained the feasibility study that Metro Water performed. He said that there is discussion about overdesigning the treatment system to potentially use it as a final remedy for the site. Jim Eigel was concerned that the pumping of the South Shannon well could pull the contamination up from the El Camino del Cerro Landfill, and the treatment system might not be sufficient. Michael Romero said that Pima County has done SVE work at the landfill and was able to remove much of the vapors. He said that the final remedy would not just be groundwater treatment, but also source removal. Gary Burchard said that Metro Water does want to keep the South Shannon well operational; if it was taken out of production, it could be deciding the fate for the other wells. Metro Water is looking at stepping up the production when the system is redesigned.

7. CAB Outreach Discussion

Melissa Hayes gave the locations where the CAB meeting notices are posted. She said that this agenda item provides time for CAB members to share how they pass on the information they learn at CAB meetings. She reminded the CAB that one of their roles is to take what they learn at the meetings and help educate members of the community. Gary Pitman and Ellie Towne said that they talk to neighbors.

8. Other Administrative Business

Melissa Hayes asked if the public participants who came to the meeting did so because of the article that appeared in the February 3, 2004 edition of the *Arizona Daily Star*; four audience members said they had. She said that the news article made it seem that the meeting was a formal meeting, but this is a regular public meeting of the CAB. Later, there will be formal meetings soliciting public input. She said that ADEQ brought a map of all WQARF and federal Superfund sites in Tucson for CAB information. Michael Romero said that the information for each site is on the ADEQ Web site.

9. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion

The next CAB meeting will be on Wednesday, May 12, 2004 at the Nanini Library, large meeting room, 7300 N. Shannon Rd., Tucson, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call Melissa Hayes, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, for meeting details. Proposed agenda items include final nominations/vote on co-chairs, discussion of CAB letters about Wrecksperts, and a presentation by Metro Water. CAB members asked if contamination actually breaks through into the South Shannon reservoir, how the public would know, and what Metro Water would do about it. Gary Burchard said that Metro Water could discuss this, along with their policies, the history of concentrations in the South Shannon well, and drinking water laws and rules that protect public health, at the next meeting.

10. Adjournment

Gary Pitman adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on cassette tapes as a record of the proceedings. To listen to the tape, or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Hayes 4/09/04
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